

ELECTIONEERING & POLL WATCHERS GUIDE

EXIT POLLING (25 FEET)

Exit polling is the act of interviewing voters immediately after they have exited the polling place to find out how they voted. These polls are usually conducted by members of the media. Exit polling is allowed but participants must remain at least 25 feet from the room in which voting takes place. The rules listed above (see News Media) also apply to exit polling.

POLL WATCHERS

The election process is a public affair and anyone who wishes may observe this process in a polling place. However, the vote of the individual citizen is a secret, and no one may interfere with a voter's right to cast a secret ballot.

Members of the Precinct Board are sworn election officials of Placer County and have complete responsibility for conducting all phases of the election in their precincts. Observers who are courteous will find them cooperative. However, certain standards are expected of observers.

Poll Watchers and the news media should become familiar with the following rules and procedures that pertain to appropriate conduct at polling places. The Elections Office requests compliance with these regulations at all times.

- Poll Watchers may not interfere in any way with the conduct of the election or with the vote count following the close of the polls. Any person who interferes with the election or with a voter is punishable by imprisonment for 16 months or two or three years (Elec. Code §18502).
- The election must be orderly. Poll Watchers may not talk in a loud voice, cause confusion, or congregate inside the polls.
- Poll Watchers may not use the telephone or other facilities. The Elections Office must have the means of direct contact to all of our polling places at all times.
- The area between the Precinct Board table and the voting booths is for voters only and may not be used as an observer post (Elec. Code §14221).
- Poll Watchers may not sit at the Precinct Board table or handle any of the official voting equipment, supplies, or ballots (Elec. Code §14223).
- Poll Watchers may not wear candidate badges, discuss candidates or bring any campaign material into the polling place. This activity constitutes electioneering and is illegal. Electioneering may not be conducted within 100 feet of the room or rooms in which voters are signing the Combined Roster Index and casting ballots. The blue and white "Polling Place 100 feet" signs which are posted outside of each polling place indicate the 100 foot boundary for electioneering (Elec. Code §18370).
- A Roster Street Index, marked to indicate persons who have voted, is posted inside the polling place door for reference by the public or any observers. It may be inspected provided there is no interference with poll operations or delay or inconvenience to the voter. This Roster Street Index is not to be removed from the premises (Elec. Code §14223).

PEACE OFFICERS / SECURITY PERSONNEL

Any person in possession of a firearm or any uniformed peace officer, private guard, or security personnel, or any person who is wearing a uniform of a peace officer, guard, or security personnel,

who is stationed in the immediate vicinity of, or posted at, a polling place without written authorization of the appropriate city or county elections official is punishable by a fine not exceeding ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), by imprisonment in the state prison for 16 months or two or three years or in a county jail not exceeding one year, or by both fine and imprisonment (Elec. Code §18544). This section shall not apply to any of the following:

- An unarmed, uniformed guard, or security personnel, who is at the polling place to cast his or her vote.
- A peace officer who is conducting official business in the course of his/her public employment or who is at the polling place to cast his/her vote.
- A private guard or security personnel hired or arranged by a city or county election official.
- A private guard or security personnel hired or arranged by the owner or manager of the facility or property in which the polling place is located if the guard or security personnel is not hired or arranged solely for the day on which an election is held.

TAMPERING / BALLOT SECURITY

- Pursuant to Election Codes §§18564, 18565, 18566, 18567, 18568 and 18569, tampering with voting equipment or altering vote results constitutes a felony, punishable by imprisonment.
- A member of the public is guilty of a misdemeanor if, while observing any of the following, he or she willfully engages in any conduct set forth in (Elec. Code §18562.5(b)):
 - Attempting to ascertain the identity and ballot choices of a voter, or having observed or learned the identity of a voter, attempting to ascertain the ballot choices of that voter.
 - Opening a Provisional ballot envelope, Mail ballot envelope, or Vote-By-Mail ballot envelope containing a voted ballot in order to ascertain the voter's ballot choices.
 - Making or placing a mark or device on a ballot or secrecy envelope in an attempt to ascertain the voter's ballot choices.

CELL PHONE USAGE

Cell phone usage (with the exception of conducting election business) is not permitted within the precinct by anyone (including Precinct Election Officers). This includes, but is not limited to, talking, texting, and gaming. Persons needing to make emergency calls must step outside the precinct room to do so.

Election Code §14291 Allows a voter to voluntarily disclose how he or she voted [Ballot selfies, ok] if that voluntary act does not violate any other law.